DOCKET NO.: THOM-0022 (RA/P301529US)

Application No.: 10/088,042

Office Action Dated: March 10, 2004

PATENT REPLY FILED UNDER EXPEDITED PROCEDURE PURSUANT TO 37 CFR § 1.116

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

- 1. (Currently Amended) A method of sealing a reclosable fastener to a substrate which comprises presenting lengths of fastener to a continuous substrate, locating the lengths of fastener on the substrate by attaching them to the substrate so as to leave a body of the fastener free for movement relative to the substrate, and passing the combination between a pair of sealing jaws which are dimensioned to be longer than the body of the fastener along the path of movement of the combination and which are displaceable relative to the combination to effect a sealing of the substrate to the fastener body when moved into contact therewith.
- 2. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, in which the length dimension of the sealing jaws is such as to form the substrate around the body of the fastener.
- 3. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, which includes locating the fastener between two substantially parallel webs of material, and initially attaching the lengths of fastener only to the inside of one of said webs of material.
- 4. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 3, which includes initially attaching the lengths of fastener by means of a single flange extending from one element of the fastener.
- 5. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, in which the lengths of fastener are presented to the substrate by a cross-web technique.
- 6. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, in which the body of the fastener comprises two engageable elements, each having an upstanding post at the margin of the fastener which is engageable with a heel of the other element at the opposing margin of said other element, with the respective posts and heels of the two elements angled at their respective contact surfaces.

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7. (Original) Apparatus for sealing a reclosable fastener to a substrate, comprising means for presenting lengths of fastener to a continuous substrate, means for attaching the lengths of fastener initially to the substrate so as to leave a body of the fastener free for movement, and a pair of sealing jaws between which the combination is arranged to pass, said jaws being dimensioned to be longer than the body of the fastener along the path of movement of the combination and being displaceable relative to the combination to effect sealing of the substrate to the fastener body when moved into contact therewith.

- 8. (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 7, in which the lengths of fastener are located between two substantially parallel webs of material, and are initially attached only to the inside of one of said webs of material.
- 9. (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 8, in which the lengths of fastener are initially attached by means of a single flange extending from one element of the fastener.
- 10. (Previously Presented) Apparatus as claimed in claim 7, in which the sealing jaws are preceded in the path of movement by another pair of jaws incorporating means to sever filled and sealed bags.